

run, negotiating with other countries will keep us much safer than scaring them into submission.

The Bush doctrine has been tried, and it has failed. It's time for a new national security strategy. SMART Security defends America by relying on the very best of America—our commitment to peace and freedom, our compassion for the people of the world, and our capacity for multilateral leadership. SMART Security is tough, pragmatic and patriotic. SMART Security is smart, and it will keep America safe.

HONORING REBECCA GALLOWAY

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Rebecca Galloway for winning the Reading Is Fundamental National Poster Contest. In this back-to-school reading-motivation contest, Rebecca competed with more than 500 other entries nationwide. The poster she created, depicting a child reading a book with the sun, earth and stars in the background, took the top honors in this contest.

Ms. Galloway is a 10-year-old student from Warwick, Rhode Island. She is in the 5th grade at the Warwick Neck Elementary School. Rebecca enjoys reading in bed with her mother at night and they are both fans of the Nancy Drew Mystery series. Rebecca and her family understand how important reading is for children and they take advantage of the opportunities that books create for them daily. Rebecca hopes her poster will encourage other children to take advantage of these same opportunities.

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) is a nationwide non-profit group that aims to ensure that all children have access to free books. RIF encourages children, especially those most at risk, to take home and keep the books they distribute. In partnership with the U.S. Department of Education and Nestlé, RIF distributed 16.5 million new books in 2003 to children throughout the country. RIF also supports various programs to encourage reading, such as the poster contest.

Ms. Galloway will receive a gift certificate to purchase books, a laptop computer, a basket of Nestlé products, and a \$1000 U.S. Savings Bond for winning the poster contest. She will also attend a special awards ceremony and her school will receive funds to purchase books for their library. In this day and age with so many forms of media competing for our children's attention, it is important that we encourage them to turn toward the infinite possibilities offered by books. Once again, I congratulate Rebecca Galloway for her award-winning poster and thank the Reading Is Fundamental organization for the work they do for the young minds of America.

TRIBUTE TO WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT BAIRD TIPSON

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Wittenberg University President Baird Tipson for his 9 years of dedicated service to the students and faculty of the university, and the community of Springfield, OH.

On July 1, President Tipson will be leaving his post as president for a new opportunity to serve as the 26th president of Washington College in Chestertown, MD.

During his tenure at Wittenberg, President Tipson has been a leader in promoting the highest standards of excellence in higher education. In particular, he has led the university's efforts to provide a state-of-the-art learning environment for students.

In recent years, I have had the privilege of working with President Tipson to complete Wittenberg's most ambitious capital improvement to date, and the most significant improvement to the university's science facilities since the original construction of the Science Hall in 1965. I am of course referring to the Barbara Deer Kuss Center.

President Tipson and I worked together to complete this innovative science education center that provides Wittenberg students and faculty with a safe environment to perform their scientific research as part of the science education curriculum.

Over the years, President Tipson has also served as a leader in the Springfield community. He served as the president of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra Board and as a member of the Chamber of Commerce Board. In addition, he has served on the boards of the Community Leadership Academy and Aid for College Opportunities (ACO), and as a member of the Springfield City Schools Business Advisory Council.

I have lived in Springfield for most of my adult life and have seen Wittenberg University grow into one of the best liberal arts universities in Ohio. I have greatly enjoyed representing and working with the university over the years. And, a highlight of that time has been my working partnership with President Tipson.

As the Member of Congress who represents Springfield and Wittenberg University in the U.S. House of Representatives, I am proud of the achievements and curriculum enhancements made under the steady leadership of President Tipson.

In closing, I would like to express my best regards to President Tipson and his wife, Sarah, as they embark on this new endeavor.

INTRODUCING THE VIDEO DESCRIPTION RESTORATION ACT OF 2004

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the "Video Description Restoration Act of

2004." Mr. Speaker, the language in this bill is identical to provisions in Section 9 of Senate bill S. 1264, sponsored by Senators JOHN MCCAIN and FRITZ HOLLINGS. Mr. Speaker, we have a long history in telecommunications policy of trying to ensure that the benefits of technology reach all segments of American society. Our policies, enacted by Congress and implemented by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), have sought to further the three principal goals of telecommunications policy, namely, universal service, diversity, and localism—even as such policy objectives are buffeted by rapid technological change and competition.

For instance, in the late 1980s, the Telecommunications Subcommittee enacted legislation to include a decoder chip in all televisions to ensure that the deaf and hard-of-hearing community had affordable access to closed captioning. While the industry opposed such efforts as being too costly, with exaggerated claims of how much the price of televisions would rise as a result of this mandate, the technology cost was minimal and now turns out to be about a dollar a set. The FCC's video description rules were designed to similarly serve a community, in this case the blind community, in a modest effort to ensure that television was available to that community. Video description is the insertion of narration about the visual setting and background when that information is not already included in the audio portion of the program. Because television is a mainstay for information, news, and family-oriented viewing in the home, it is important that steps are taken, in furtherance of longstanding universal service goals, to reach the blind community.

This bill would restore the video programming rules. Recently the DC Circuit Court of Appeals invalidated the rules, alleging that the Commission did not have sufficient authority to promulgate such rules. Passage of this legislation would remove any ambiguity. I believe Congress ought to give the Commission clear guidance that such rules should be reinstated in a way that no court could question the intent of Congress that the Commission should have such authority. Moreover, by approving such legislation, Congress can also establish that such video description rules do not regulate content in violation of any Constitutional protections. Broadcasters are free to air whatever content they wish over the course of a week. The video description rules simply require that a modest portion of such speech be made available to all listeners, including those who cannot see. The regulations would not stipulate which speech is acceptable, favored, or otherwise and broadcasters can choose which speech they wish to make available to the blind community. In fact, rather than infringing upon speech, the rules celebrate it, essentially saying that such speech is so important, so valued, that more Americans deserve to be able to hear it over their public airwaves, as broadcast by public licensees who are required by law to serve the public interest.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the House will move legislation this year to re-instate these important video description rules and look forward to working with all of my colleagues on this issue in the weeks and months ahead.